

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An animal related apparatus, comprising:

a robot (6) for performing an animal related operation;

[[,]]

a control means (23) controlling said robot; being associated with a control means (23), and

at least one animal related device (12a, 12b) ~~associated with~~ controlled by said control means,

said robot being provided with a robot arm (8) adapted to move said animal related device towards an animal;

~~, characterised in that~~

a registering means (20a, 20b, ..., 20g) ~~is~~ provided for registering a cumulative running value of each of said at least one animal related device, said robot, and said complete animal related operation so that separate cumulative running values are accumulated for each of said at least one animal related device, said robot, and said complete animal related operation, [[;]]

said control means being adapted to generate a signal when a respective predetermined threshold value has been reached for any of the cumulative running value of said at least one

animal related device, said robot, and said complete animal related operation; and wherein

each said respective predetermined threshold value is set for each of said at least one animal related device, said robot and [[a]] said complete animal related operation, each said respective predetermined threshold value being indicative that a service has to be performed on a corresponding one of said at least one animal related device, said robot, and said complete animal related operation, and

each time another of the animal related operation is performed, each registering means is activated and registers further cumulative running values, the further cumulative running values being added to previous, stored cumulative running values corresponding to previously performed animal related operations.

2. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, characterised in that ~~said~~ a separate registering means (20a, 20b,...,20g) is adapted to register the running value of said at least one animal related device.

3. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, characterised in that said registering means (20a, 20b,...,20g) is adapted to register the running value of a driving means (22) of said robot (6).

4. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, characterised in that said running value is the running time of said complete animal related operation.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, characterised in that

said animal related device comprises milking equipment having a teatcup (12a) provided with a shell and a liner forming an intermediate space;

said space being connectable to a source of vacuum (24) via a pulsator (26) for creating a pulsating vacuum,

said pulsator being associated with said control means (23), and

said control means being adapted to register the cumulative running value of said pulsator.

6. (original) An apparatus according to claim 5, characterised in that said running value is running time of said pulsator (26).

7. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 5, characterised in that said running value is a number of pulsations generated by said pulsator (26).

8. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, characterised in that said animal related device

comprises a teat location device (14) and said running value being running time thereof.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, characterised in that said animal related device comprises a teat cleaning device (12b) and said running value being running time thereof.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, characterised in that

said apparatus further comprises a gate means (18) for restricting movement of an animal from an animal space (4);

said gate means (18) being opened and closed by means of a driving means (19); and

said running value being said running time of said driving means.

11. (currently amended) An animal related apparatus, comprising:

a robot (6) for performing an animal related operation;

at least one animal related device (12a, 12b) for use in performing the animal related operation;

a control means (23) directing operation of said robot and selecting the at least one animal related device for the robot to perform the animal related operation;

a robot arm (8) associated with said robot and adapted to move said animal related device towards an animal;

a registering means provided for automatically registering a cumulative operating running value of each of said at least one animal related device, said robot, and a ~~device used in said~~ complete animal related operation so that separate cumulative running values are accumulated for each of said at least one animal related device, said robot, and said complete animal related operation, wherein,

said control means is adapted to generate a maintenance-need signal when reaching ~~[[a]]~~ predetermined threshold ~~value~~ values corresponding to each of

i) said cumulative running value of said at least one animal related device,

ii) said cumulative running value of said robot, and

iii) said cumulative running value of said device used in said animal related operation,

so that said signal is automatically generated by said control means ~~upon~~ when said registering means ~~registering each~~ registers any one of said cumulative running values reaching said corresponding predetermined threshold value ~~values~~.

12. (currently amended) An animal related apparatus, comprising:

a milking robot (6) for performing an animal related operation related to milking an animal;

a control means (23) directing operation of said robot;

at least one animal related device (12a, 12b) operatively connected with said control means;

a robot arm (8) associated with said robot and adapted to move said animal related device towards an animal;

a registering means (20a, 20b,...,20g) provided for automatically registering a cumulative operating running ~~value~~ values for each of ~~at least one of~~ i) said at least one animal related device, ii) said robot, and iii) of a ~~device used in said~~ complete animal related operation, wherein,

said control means is adapted to generate a maintenance-need signal when reaching a predetermined threshold value corresponding to any of said cumulative running ~~value~~ values, so that said signal is automatically generated by said control means ~~upon~~ when said registering means registers ~~registering~~ any of said cumulative running value reaching said corresponding predetermined threshold value.

13-15. (cancelled).

16. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein,

said animal related device comprises milking equipment having a teatcup (12a) provided with a shell and a liner forming an intermediate space,

said space being connectable to a source of vacuum (24) via a pulsator (26) for creating a pulsating vacuum,

said pulsator being associated with said control means (23), and

said control means being adapted to register the cumulative running value of said pulsator.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein, said running value is running time of said pulsator (26).

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein, said running value is a number of pulsations generated by said pulsator (26).

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein, said animal related device comprises a teat location device (14) and said running value is a running time thereof.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein, said animal related device comprises a teat cleaning device (12b) and said running value is a running time thereof.